

IN THE CLAIMS:

Before beginning examination of this application, please amend the claims as follows;

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134. (Amended) A process [Apparatus] as in Claim 129 wherein said
2 biasing is created electrically by activating solenoid means which exerts biasing
pressure against said openable first gate; and said counteracting said electrically
4 created biasing comprises deactivating said solenoid means to eliminate its biasing,
such that said openable gate is allowed to open and said accumulated pieces of ice
6 to be released.

REMARKS

In the subject Office Action the Examiner defined 28 species within the claims, and required election of a single species to which the application will be limited if no claim is ultimately found to be generic. The Examiner also indicated that in his opinion no claim appears to be generic.

In accordance with the requirement, Applicants hereby elect Species I (Figures 1, 2 and 3) drawn to a general vacuum system for conveyance of ice cubes. This election is made with reservation of the right to traverse.

The claims which are believed to be within this species are Claims 1-118.

Applicants respectfully traverse the Examiner's indication that no claim appears to be generic. At least within the group of Claims 1-118 Claim 1 is believed to be generic.

Applicants have herein amended Claim 134 to correct an inadvertent typographical error. No new matter is added nor is the scope of the invention changed, and therefore the amendment is believed to be appropriate for entry.

CONCLUSION


In view of the above, it is submitted that the Office Action has been fully responded to, and that the application is now in condition for continued examination. Allowance of all claims under examination is respectfully requested.

Should the Examiner believe that prosecution of this application might be expedited by further discussion of the issues, a telephone call to the undersigned attorney, collect, at the telephone number listed below, is cordially invited.

Respectfully submitted,

Dated: February 3, 2000

By: _____


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Docket No.: 7480-PA01CP2